

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SCCT-02 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 /131 W

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P O 131302Z JUN 74

FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 831

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 051

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1159

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

KUWAIT PASS MUSCAT

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION, 6/13/74

1. SUMMARY: BOTH SYRIAN DAILIES FRONTPAGE, BELOW FOLD, STORIES ON PRESIDENT NIXON'S ARRIVAL IN EGYPT AND OTHER ACTIVITIES OF FIRST DAY. AL-THAWRA CARRIES LONG ARTICLE WITH EXCERPTS FROM WELCOMING REMARKS AND TOASTS AT STATE DINNER. AL-BAATH HAS SMALL PICTURE OF NIXON AND SADAT REVIEWING GUARD OF HONOR. BOTH PAPERS INDICATE TALKS BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS INCLUDED SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST AND IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES INCLUDED DISCUSSION OF U.S. ECONOMIC PROJECTS IN EGYPT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN AL-THAWRA QUOTED FROM THE REMARKS OF BOTH PRESIDENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT THERE HAD BEEN PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TOWARD CLOSER AMERICAN-EGYPTIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS. COVERING THE ARRIVAL CEREMONY ARTICLE POINTS OUT THIS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT OF AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO EGYPT AND SAYS THAT ACCORDING TO ZIEGLER NO LESS THAN THREE MILLION PEOPLE, THE LARGEST CROWD AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT HAS EVEN SEEN, WELCOMED NIXON TO EGYPT. ARTICLE QUOTES BOTH PRESIDENTS AT THE AL-QUBBA PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. SADAT SAYS NIXON'S VISIT TO EGYPT "IS DISTINGUISHED SIGN ON THE ROAD OF DEVELOPING RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE UNITED STATES." NIXON IN TURN IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THIS POINT IN TIME "WILL BE REMEMBERED IN ALL CENTURIES AS ONE OF THE POINTS OF GREAT CHANGE WHICH EFFECTED THE HISTORY OF HUMANITY." SPEAKING OF AMERICA'S GOAL TO REALIZE PEACE IN THE WORLD, THE PRESIDENT SAID THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL AND THEN BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL PROVIDE BASIS TO ACHIEVE MORE PROGRESS IN THE FUTURE.

3. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE AT STATE DINNER PRESIDENT SADAT SAID "THE POLITICAL SOLUTION AND RESPECT OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL DESIRES IS THE ESSENCE OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM... AND THERE IS NO ROAD TO PEACE WITHOUT A POLITICAL SOLUTION OF THIS PROBLEM." SADAT IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE SINCE THE OCTOBER WAR HAS BEEN THE CHANGE IN THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE AND THAT

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THIS NEW PAGE IN AMERICAN POLICY IS "A TRUE WITNESS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS A VITAL INTEREST IN HAVING GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL STATES IN THIS SENSITIVE REGION." ARTICLE CLOSES WITH A DESCRIPTION OF VARIOUS MEDALS PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT AND MRS. NIXON AND SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER. THERE NO COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S REMARKS AT DINNER.

4. DAMASCUS RADIO INCLUDES IN ALL OF ITS NEWSCASTS SMALL

ITEMS REPORTING PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES. AS YET, THERE HAS
BEEN NO IN DEPTH COVERAGE ON SYRIAN TV; BUT BASED ON THEIR
REQUESTS FOR FILMS AND DATA, WE KNOW THEY PREPARING ON HOUR
PROGRAM TO BE BROADCAST DURING OFFICIAL VISIT.
SCOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAMASC01159
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740153-0353
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740649/aaaabpzh.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION, 6/13/74
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, SY, (NIXON, RICHARD M), (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005